



The 14th Aruba Reef Care Clean up is coming up!

July 7 & 8 are fast upon us, and hundreds of islanders will hit the beaches not to get a tan, but with garbage bags in hand to clean up! This annual event sponsored by the Aruban Tourist Authority and organized by ATA staffer Carlos Perez began the movement that has spawned many other such clean ups, but is still the largest, covering the most shore areas over two days.

The center of operations will be the Naptali Henriquez Park in Oranjestad, where supplies can be obtained for participating groups and closing ceremonies await volunteers with box lunches, certificates of appreciation, and the famous raffle for weekend stays and dinners donated by resorts and local restaurants.

Carlos Perez was joined by John Oster of S.E.A. Fly & Dive at the ATA Headquarters to remind potential volunteers to sign up with one of the operations involved in the organization of the clean up. S.E.A. Fly & Dive will be going underwater with divers and snorkelers to clean the reefs and around piers, as will Red Sail Sports, Unique Sports of Aruba, Mermaid Divers, Pelican Adventures and JADS in San Nicolas. Other operations that are organizing beach clean-ups are Atlantis Submarine, Turtugaruba, De Palm Tours, Hash House Harriers, AHATA Environmental Committee, Rainbow Girls, Lady Olive Baden Powell Scout Group and the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

The clean up will take place in the morning hours from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM, and all are welcome to join, island residents and visitors alike. Aside from the satisfaction of contributing to preservation and beauty of our beaches, it is a fun day with a congenial gathering and certificate of appreciation at the end. This year, the Reef Care Project has “gone green” with the signature souvenir tee shirt for each volunteer a bright chartreuse, a reminder of the “green teams” that are lecturing at public schools to educate island youth about preserving and protecting Aruba’s environment. Those wishing to participate in this year’s clean up can contact any of the organizations mentioned above to inscribe; contact numbers can be obtain from Carlos Perez at the ATA offices, telephone 582-3777 ext 263.

Organizers have nearly 300 volunteers signed up so far, and more are always welcome, but they ask that those wishing to participate do not wait until the last minute so they can guarantee sufficient food and beverage for all. Carlos also expressed his thanks to the vendors that annually lend their support to this effort; they include RBTT Bank, Subway, Morik Caribbean, N.V., Balashi Brewery, Tropical Bottling, Amstel Bright, Oduber Agencies, Houri, N.V., SETAR, N.V., SERLIMAR, and DTI.